Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (canceled)

Claim 2 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 3 wherein a plurality of said apertures of said reinforcing member are of substantially the same dimensions as, and co-registered with, a corresponding plurality of said apertures in said drainage surface.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A reinforced drainage grate assembly comprising:

(a) an elongate drainage grate having a substantially planar drainage surface including a plurality of apertures there through and a pair of longitudinally extending side portions, each side portion extending orthogonally below said drainage surface and including a bottom flange extending toward the opposing one of said side portions, wherein an inner dimension is defined between said pair of side portions;

(b) a reinforcing member disposed between said bottom flanges and an underside of said drainage surface so that an upper surface of said reinforcing

member abuts said underside of said drainage surface, said reinforcing member including a plurality of apertures there through, wherein at least a portion of said apertures in said reinforcing member are co-registered with at least a portion of said apertures in said drainage surface so as to permit the passage of fluids from said drainage surface through said reinforcing member, and wherein said upper surface includes at least one substantially continuous longitudinal upper surface portion disposed inwardly of said portions of said grate disposed between said bottom flanges and said underside of said grate and extending longitudinally from a first end of said reinforcing member to a second end of said reinforcing member, wherein said reinforcing member further comprises a plurality of slots disposed ~~therein, said slots~~ therein that are each adapted to receive a metal strip therein such that the metal strip extends along the inner dimension of the drainage grate and is retained with respect to the reinforcing member by the bottom flanges.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The assembly of claim 3 wherein at least ~~a portion~~ one of said slots ~~include~~ includes at least one metal ~~strips~~ strip disposed therein.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 3 wherein said slots extend substantially perpendicular to said pair of side portions.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The assembly of claim 5 wherein at least ~~a~~

~~portion~~ one of said slots ~~include~~ includes at least one metal ~~strips~~ strip disposed therein.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The assembly according to claim 3 wherein said elongate drainage grate is substantially rectangular, having a length and an inner dimension corresponding to the distance between said side portions, and at least said upper surface of said reinforcing member has a length and dimension substantially the same as said length and inner dimension of said elongate drainage grate.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The assembly according to claim 3 wherein said reinforcing member is formed of a single piece of plastic.

Claim 9 (original): The assembly according to claim 7 wherein said reinforcing member is formed of a single piece of plastic.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The assembly according to claim 3 wherein the area of said upper surface of said reinforcing member is greater than the area of said apertures in said reinforcing member.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The assembly according to claim 3 wherein said reinforcing member includes a plurality of apertures disposed orthogonally

between said side portions of said drainage grate.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The assembly according to claim 3 wherein said reinforcing member includes a plurality of apertures disposed in a line substantially perpendicularly between said side portions of said drainage grate.

Claim 13 (currently amended): An adjustable load rating drainage grate assembly comprising:

(a) an elongate drainage grate having a substantially planar drainage surface including a plurality of apertures there through and a pair of longitudinally extending side portions, each side portion extending orthogonally below said drainage surface and including a bottom flange extending toward the opposing one of said side portions, wherein an inner dimension is defined between said pair of side portions;

(b) a reinforcing member disposed between said bottom flanges and an underside of said drainage surface so that an upper surface of said reinforcing member abuts said underside of said drainage surface; said reinforcing member further including:

a plurality of apertures there through, wherein at least a portion of said apertures in said reinforcing member are co-registered with at least a portion of said apertures in said drainage surface so as to permit the passage of fluids from said drainage surface through said reinforcing member, and a plurality of slots that are

each adapted to receive at least one strip of metal therein such that the metal strip extends along the inner dimension of the drainage grate and is retained with respect to the reinforcing member by the bottom flanges, said slots being disposed within said reinforcing member in a manner adapted to alter said load rating of said drainage grate when a plurality of metal strips are disposed within said slots.

Claim 14 (original): The assembly of claim 13 wherein said reinforcing member does not include any metal strips and said drainage grate has a Class A rating.

Claim 15 (original): The assembly of claim 13 wherein a plurality of said slots include metal strips disposed therein in a manner adapted to provide said drainage grate with a Class B rating.

Claim 16 (original): The assembly of claim 13 wherein a plurality of said slots include metal strips disposed therein in a manner adapted to provide said drainage grate with a Class C rating.

Claim 17 (original): The assembly of claim 13 wherein a plurality of said apertures of said reinforcing member are of substantially the same dimensions as, and co-registered with, a corresponding plurality of said apertures in said drainage surface.

Claim 18 (original): The assembly of claim 13 wherein said slots extend substantially perpendicular to said pair of side portions and adapted to receive a metal strip therein.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The assembly according to claim 13 wherein said elongate drainage grate is substantially rectangular, having a length and an inner dimension corresponding to the distance between said side portions, and at least said upper surface of said reinforcing member has a length and dimension substantially the same as said length and inner dimension of said elongate drainage grate.

Claim 20 (original): The assembly according to claim 13 wherein said upper surface of said reinforcing member includes at least one substantially continuous longitudinal upper surface portion disposed inwardly of said portions of said member disposed between said bottom flanges and said underside, and extending longitudinally from a first end of said reinforcing member to a second end of said reinforcing member.

Claim 21 (original): The assembly according to claim 13 wherein said reinforcing member is formed of a single piece of plastic.

Claim 22 (original): The assembly according to claim 20 wherein said

reinforcing member is formed of a single piece of plastic.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The assembly according to claim 3 wherein said reinforcing member includes at least one elongate fastening member extending orthogonally from a bottom surface thereof, said fastening member including an enlarged distal end portion.

Claim 24 (original): The assembly according to claim 13 wherein said reinforcing member includes at least one elongate fastening member extending orthogonally from a bottom surface thereof, said fastening member including an enlarged distal end portion.

Claim 25 (new): A reinforced drainage grate assembly comprising:

(a) an elongate drainage grate having a substantially planar drainage surface including a plurality of apertures there through and a pair of longitudinally extending side portions, each side portion extending orthogonally below said drainage surface and including a bottom flange extending toward the opposing one of said side portions;

(b) a reinforcing member disposed between said bottom flanges and an underside of said drainage surface so that an upper surface of said reinforcing member abuts said underside of said drainage surface, said reinforcing member including a plurality of apertures there through, wherein at least a portion of said

apertures in said reinforcing member are co-registered with at least a portion of said apertures in said drainage surface so as to permit the passage of fluids from said drainage surface through said reinforcing member, and wherein said upper surface includes at least one substantially continuous longitudinal upper surface portion disposed inwardly of said portions of said grate disposed between said bottom flanges and said underside of said grate and extending longitudinally from a first end of said reinforcing member to a second end of said reinforcing member, wherein said reinforcing member further comprises a plurality of slots disposed therein, at least one of said slots including at least one metal strip disposed therein.

Claim 26 (new): An adjustable load rating drainage grate assembly comprising:

(a) an elongate drainage grate having a substantially planar drainage surface including a plurality of apertures there through and a pair of longitudinally extending side portions, each side portion extending orthogonally below said drainage surface and including a bottom flange extending toward the opposing one of said side portions;

(b) a reinforcing member disposed between said bottom flanges and an underside of said drainage surface so that an upper surface of said reinforcing member abuts said underside of said drainage surface; said reinforcing member further including:

a plurality of apertures there through, wherein at least a portion of said

apertures in said reinforcing member are co-registered with at least a portion of said apertures in said drainage surface so as to permit the passage of fluids from said drainage surface through said reinforcing member, and a plurality of slots adapted to receive at least one strip of metal therein, at least one of said slots including at least one metal strip disposed therein, said slots being disposed within said reinforcing member in a manner adapted to alter said load rating of said drainage grate when a plurality of metal strips are disposed within said slots.